

Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR)

Temporary Policy

POLICY & PROCEDURE NO. 10.05	ISSUE DATE: __01-06-12__
	EFFECTIVE DATE: __01-06-12__
MASSACHUSETTS POLICE ACCREDITATION STANDARDS REFERENCED: None	REVISION DATE: _____

I. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS AND GUIDELINES

Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR) is a new technology being deployed in Massachusetts. At the current time there is not a statewide model policy that has been developed. In the interim, this policy shall guide Leicester Police Officers in the appropriate use of the ALPR technology.

The use of ALPR technology, if used in the manner for which it was designed, provides law enforcement with technology that affords them with a significant opportunity to enhance traffic enforcement and the interdiction of criminal activity.

The deployment of ALPR technology could potentially raise the concern of members of the community. Officers, who are utilizing the ALPR technology, should be aware of these potential concerns and shall only utilize the ALPR equipment as set forth in this policy.

II. Legal Considerations

The ALPR System provides information to police officers that originated from the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles Data Base. This information is subject to the restrictions set forth in:

- The Federal "Driver Privacy Protection Act (See 18 U.S.C. §2721 *et seq*)

All officers shall comply with the aforementioned federal law regarding the handling of information they receive using the ALPR.

III. Approved ALPR Use

The ALPR is approved for use during routine patrol and traffic enforcement initiatives. The use of the ALPR, to address/target specific criminal activity, is permitted, but it must be preapproved by the Chief of Police or his designee.

IV. Prohibited ALPR Use

Using the ALPR to indiscriminately gather data for the purpose of enhancing the data bases at the Leicester Police Department is prohibited. This type of prohibited activity would include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Downloading data pertaining to specific individual identity from the ALPR into the LPD's RMS System to track the movements of the individual. ¹
- Targeting specific geographic areas for the purpose of gathering identifying data on individuals for a purpose other than those permitted under the "Approved Use" section.
- Use of the ALPR in any manner that is prohibited by the Massachusetts Department of Criminal Justice Services.

V. Data Retention

The data collected by the ALPR will be retained in electronic format on the LPD's computer server for a period of 1 year. This data may be of evidentiary value to the LPD or another law enforcement agency during its retention. Searches of the ALPR data stored on the LPD server may only be conducted with the prior approval of the Chief of Police or his designee. ²

¹ This activity is permitted, if done as part of an ongoing criminal investigation and with the prior approval of the Chief of Police.

² A search by officers of the data on their MDT's is not restricted by this policy.